

Estate Planning 101

What is Estate Planning?

Estate Planning is a general term that refers to the process of accumulating and disposing of assets in order to meet the goals of the estate owner so that his or her assets reach the intended beneficiaries, with little or no negative financial consequences. There are many common goals that most people consider when planning their estate. They include:

- Leaving the greatest amount of the estate to intended beneficiaries
- Leaving specific items such as jewelry, furniture or art to specific people
- Designating guardians or establishing trusts for minor children
- Planning for incapacity
- Paying the least amount of taxes
- Avoiding or minimizing the probate process

Is Estate Planning Right for Me?

The simple answer is yes. If you have assets you wish to leave behind for your loved ones, want to ensure your wishes relating to your healthcare and treatment are met, or have minor children, you should consider creating an estate plan. Most people fall into at least one of these categories.

It's never too early to prepare an estate plan. Having one will provide the peace of mind that comes from knowing your wishes will be carried out as you intended and you will receive the health-related treatment you want if you are unable to communicate those decisions.

Can my Group Legal Plan Help?

Estate Planning can be a complicated process. Important decisions need to be made and you should consult with an attorney who can explain your options and recommend a course of action for your specific situation.

When choosing your benefit options, be sure to consider the help a Group Legal Plan offers. Hyatt Legal Plans has a network of over 11,000 attorneys ready to assist you with your estate planning needs. Your attorney's fees for the preparation of Wills, Trusts, Living Wills, and Powers of Attorney are fully covered under the Legal Plan if you use an attorney participating in the Hyatt Legal Plans network. For more information, call the Hyatt Legal Plans' Client Service Center at 800-821-6400 or log onto www.legalplans.com.



Hyatt Legal Plans
A MetLife Company

What is a...?		Why should I have one?
Will	A written document which leaves your property to those beneficiaries designated in the will.	Without one, the courts will decide how your estate is distributed based on state law, not you. It is more expensive not to have a Will.
Living Trust	A legal entity created through which one person, called a trustee, holds legal title to property for another person, called a beneficiary.	A Trust can minimize estate taxes, avoid probate, shield assets from potential creditors, and designate assets for children and grandchildren.
Living Will	Also called an "advanced directive," it is a document authorized by statutes in all states. A person appoints someone as his/her proxy or representative to make decisions on maintaining extraordinary life-support if the person becomes incapacitated so that he or she cannot communicate his or her wishes.	A Living Will ensures your wishes are carried out, and protects your loved ones from making these very difficult and personal decisions by themselves.
Power of Attorney	A written document that grants an individual the power to act on the grantor's behalf.	A power of attorney allows you to plan ahead by designating someone you know and trust to act on your behalf in the event of unexpected occurrences or if you become incapacitated.

This document is intended to provide you with general information. This document is not intended to provide, and should not be relied upon for, legal advice. If you require legal advice, please consult with your own attorney.

© 2010 Hyatt Legal Plans. Group legal plans provided by Hyatt Legal Plans, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio. In certain states, group legal plans provided through insurance coverage underwritten by Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company and Affiliates, Warwick, RI. L1010135722[exp1011][All States][DC, GU, MP, PR, VI]